

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01462 161537Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3248

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, HU

SUBJ: MESTERHAZY CASE

REFS: A) STATE 108501; B) BUDAPEST 1461

1. AT RECENT LUNCHEON FOR AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE FERENC ESZTERGALYOS, MCAULIFFE BROUGHT UP MESTERHAZY CASE. (VARKONYI, DIRECTOR DEPT V, ALSO PRESENT). MCAULIFFE STRESSED THAT OPPORTUNITY NOW AT HAND TO SETTLE CASE QUIETLY, WITHOUT FANFARE, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUNGARIAN LAW. HE ADDED THAT IF CASE SETTLED SATISFACTORILY, DEPT PREPARED TO URGE NO PUBLICITY BY ANYONE INVOLVED BECAUSE USG HAS CONTINUING STAKE IN QUIET DIPLOMACY WITH VIEW TO SECURING FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF OTHER EQUALLY MERITORIOUS EMIGRATION CASES. WHEN ESZTERGALYOS' EXPRESSED CONCERN RE TIMING OF PRESENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIALS (REFTEL B), MCAULIFFE RESPONDED THAT POSITIVE GOH DECISION ON MESTERHYZY APPEAL COULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING ESZTERGALYOS OFF ON RIGHT FOOT IN WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION TO SENATOR HART'S LETTER TO AMBASSADOR SZABO, OF WHICH ESZTERGALYOS UNDOUBTEDLY ALREADY AWARE, MCAULIFFE REVEALED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN HAD NOW RECEIVED LETTER FROM SENATOR HELMS, AUTHOR OF AMENDMENT TO 1974 TRADE ACT GIVING PRIORITY TO UNIFICATION OF FAMILIES. THUS, TWO MORE NAMES ADDED TO ARRAY OF PROMINENT USG POLITICAL FIGURES PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN CASE. MCAULIFFE POINTED OUT THAT FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01462 161537Z

MESTERHAZY APPEAL COULD ALSO HAVE ENORMOUS POSITIVE

IMPACT ON ESZTERGALYOS' EFFORTS TO CULTIVATE GOOD RELATIONS AND IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING WITH U.S. CONGRESS, AN OBTAINED GOAL OF HIS. IF, HOWEVER, GOH DECISION ON APPEAL IS NEGATIVE, THEN ESZTERGALYOS LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER PRICKLY QUESTIONS AS RESULT OF REACTION IN CONGRESS WHERE ISSUE VERY MUCH A LIVE ONE.

2. MCAULIFFE SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR TO ESZTERGALYOS THAT LATTER'S PERSONAL CAREER INTERESTS ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO OUTCOME OF MESTERHAZY CASE. (FYI: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ESZTERGALYOS HAS GOOD CREDENTIALS AND INFLUENCE WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL SINCE MOI ULTIMATE ARBITER IN MESTERHAZY CASE.)

3. BOTH ESZTERGALYOS AND VARKONYI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, NODDING IN APPARENT AGREEMENT TO DESIRABILITY OF "QUIET DIPLOMACY IN SUCH CASES. HOWEVER, MCAULIFFE COULD EXTRACT NO COMMENT BEYOND PLATITUDE THAT PROVISIONS OF HUNGARIAN LAW MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF CASE. MCAULIFFE

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